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### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the continued thorough examination of the present application that is reflected in the final Official Action of July 14, 2005. In the final Official Action, the Examiner has raised many good points that were not previously considered by Applicants. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are still patentable over U.S. Patent 4,872,159 to Hemmady et al. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the following points and to allow the claims in view thereof:

(1) Regarding Claim 1: For the sake of analysis, assume that the claimed "outbound packing buffers" correspond to the FIFOs 94 of Figure 4 of Hemmady et al., as stated in Paragraph 10b of the final Official Action. It is clear from Figure 4 of Hemmady et al., however, that each FIFO 94 corresponds to a different user interface model (UIM) 13, as shown by the arrows 14 that connect the respective UIM to the respective FIFO 94. Thus, the FIFOs correspond to a particular user. The FIFOs are not allocated for each of a plurality of particular network addresses as recited in Claim 1, because the network addresses of Figure 4 of Hemmady would correspond to the memory and interface module (MINT) 11. Similarly, the arrows 14 between the UIM 13 and the FIFOs 94 also teach away from the recitation in Claim 1 of "packing outbound data packets into appropriate ones of the outbound packing buffers according to a network address within a header of each outbound data packet." Rather in Hemmady et al., outbound data packets are packed based on the sending user. For at least these reasons, Hemmady et al. teaches away from the above-quoted recitations of Claim 1.

(2) Regarding Claims 2 and 3: For the sake of analysis, assume that a particular network address is "inherent network addresses" as stated in the final Official Action, Paragraph 10b. However, there is no description in Hemmady et al. that the network address should be a "next-hop address on the virtual network" as recited in Claims 2 and 3, as opposed to one of many other addresses on the virtual network. Accordingly, these claims are independently patentable.

(3) Regarding Claim 5: Similar analysis as to Claim 1 regarding allocation and packing of outbound packing buffers for each of a plurality of network addresses.

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Moreover, this claim also recites first network addresses, second network addresses and how outbound packing buffers are allocated and packed with respect to these two addresses. The final Official Action has not indicated any passage of Hemmady et al. that describes two addresses, nor would these two addresses be inherent.

Accordingly, Claim 5 is independently patentable

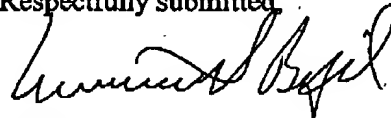
(4) Regarding Claim 6: Similar analysis as Claim 2 above.

(5) Regarding Claim 7: Paragraph 6 of the final Official Action, which analyzed Claim 7, does not provide any indication as to where Hemmady teaches "determining whether to forward the outbound data packets which are packed in each frame by inspecting a first packet of the frame" as recited in Claim 7. Accordingly, Claim 7 is independently patentable.

(6) Regarding Claims 8-24: Similar analysis to the above.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's thorough review, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider these points and to withdraw the outstanding rejections. Finally, should an appeal be necessary, instead of reiterating Applicants' previous analysis *in toto*, the analysis from the previous Amendment is hereby incorporated by reference.

Respectfully submitted,



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